

CONGRATULATING CROWN POINT  
LIONS CLUB ON THEIR 60TH AN-  
NIVERSARY

**HON. PETER J. VISCLOSKY**

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, October 15, 2003*

Mr. VISCLOSKY. Mr. Speaker, it is with great respect and admiration that I wish to congratulate the members of the Crown Point Lions Club as they celebrate their 60th anniversary. To commemorate this special occasion, the Crown Point Lions Club will be having an anniversary banquet on October 18, 2003 at the St. Matthias Hall in Crown Point, Indiana.

The Crown Point Lions Club is a part of Lions International, which is the largest service organization in the world and includes over 1.4 million members throughout more than 193 countries. The mission of the Lions Club is "We Serve," and the Crown Point Lions Club has selflessly given their support to the Northwest Indiana community, especially the people of Crown Point, in many ways. The Club has given financial support to 30 local organizations and schools, as well as contributed to seven state, national, and international programs. During Easter and Thanksgiving, the Lions donate food to those in need. They have provided sight and hearing testing machines to many local schools, helped the Crown Point Girls Softball Team get lighting for their field, as well as contributed to the good of the community by providing a Braille computer to a local student who is blind.

Throughout the past 60 years, the members of the Crown Point Lions Club have offered their dedication and support to their noble cause of serving their local community. Each year the Lions Club helps many local students obtain hearing aids and eyeglasses. Also each year they give a \$1000.00 scholarship to a local student whose educational concentration is in hearing and sight related areas. This year, the Crown Point Lions Club is helping the community build a pavilion at the Lake County Fairgrounds.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that you and my other distinguished colleagues join me in congratulating the members of the Crown Point Lions Club on the 60th anniversary of their noble organization. These giving and selfless individuals continue to dedicate their time and unrelenting efforts to serve their local community, as well as all of Northwest Indiana. It is their great desire for helping others that makes their organization and efforts such a motivating force in the First Congressional District, and I am proud to represent them in Washington, D.C.

TRIBUTE TO MRS. SARAH  
JOSEPHA HALE

**HON. CHARLES F. BASS**

OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, October 15, 2003*

Mr. BASS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the memory of Mrs. Sarah Josepha Hale of Newport, New Hampshire, a community I represent in Congress. As November approaches, I am reminded of Mrs. Hale's out-

standing contributions to American society and literary culture, including her lasting legacy as initial sponsor of our national Thanksgiving Day.

Mrs. Hale overcame 19th century social adversity to become the first female editorialist in American History. During her tenure as editor of the American Ladies Magazine and later Godey's Ladies Magazine, Mrs. Hale acted as an advocate for women's right to equality of education, property, and wages. She was also a successful novelist and poet, penning the classic "Mary Had a Little Lamb," as well as a devoted single mother of five children.

During the Civil War, Mrs. Hale took an active role as an advocate for the creation of a "Day of National Thanksgiving." Knowing that President Washington had originally called for a Thanksgiving Day in 1789, she pressed for its reinstatement as a day for all Americans to come together and celebrate as a nation. Following the horrors exhibited at the Battle of Gettysburg, President Lincoln chose to accept her suggestion, and proclaimed the last Thursday in November of each year a day of national celebration.

In this, the 140th year since the Thanksgiving Holiday was established, please let the record reflect our commemoration of Mrs. Hale's achievements. In a period of crucial national challenges, her life of personal service should be a model for all citizens seeking to make positive contributions to our great society, and I am proud to represent her legacy here in Congress.

A PROCLAMATION RECOGNIZING  
DAN LEACH

**HON. ROBERT W. NEY**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, October 15, 2003*

Mr. NEY. Mr. Speaker:

Whereas, Dan Leach has exhibited tremendous courage and heroism in rescuing others; and

Whereas, Dan Leach entered a burning house to rescue the homeowner without any selfish regard for his own well-being; and

Whereas, Dan Leach has been honored with the Ohio Fire Service Citizens Award for Heroism by the 2003 Ohio Fire Service Hall of Fame;

Therefore, I join with the residents of the entire 18th Congressional District in recognizing Dan Leach for his courage, commitment and sacrifice.

CONGRATULATIONS TO MASTER  
SERGEANT DENNIS TAKESHITA

**HON. NEIL ABERCROMBIE**

OF HAWAII

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, October 15, 2003*

Mr. ABERCROMBIE. Mr. Speaker, I want to take this opportunity to congratulate Master Sergeant Dennis Takeshita on his retirement from the Hawaii Air National Guard and thank him for 37 years of outstanding service to our Nation.

Master Sergeant Takeshita served on active duty with the Air Force from 1966 to 1972,

and he served in the Hawaii Air National Guard until October 1 of this year. During that time, Master Sergeant Takeshita received many citations and awards for his high level of performance and commitment to duty. He is a veteran of Vietnam and served in Operations Allied Force, Noble Eagle, and Enduring Freedom.

Throughout his years of service Master Sergeant Dennis Takeshita demonstrated a spirit of steadfast patriotism, leadership, and professionalism. He embodies the qualities of honor, love of country, and dedication to the core values of the United States Air Force. He set a high standard of performance that challenges each and every one of us to give our very best in whatever we undertake.

We join today in saluting Master Sergeant Dennis Takeshita for 37 years of dedicated service. Mahalo, Dennis, and best wishes for the future.

VETERANS BENEFIT ACT OF 2003

SPEECH OF

**HON. MAX SANDLIN**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, October 8, 2003*

Mr. SANDLIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 2297, the Veterans Benefits Act of 2003; however, I cannot in good conscience cast my vote for this measure without expressing my serious disappointment in the leadership of this House and its continuing refusal to fulfill the promises this Nation has made to its bravest and most loyal citizens—our veterans. As a result of the War on Terror, we have troops deployed at points all over the world. In the name of freedom and liberty, we are in the process of creating more veterans, yet we cannot do justice by our Nation's current veterans.

I refuse to remain silent while Congress puts forth a bill that does not go nearly far enough to help the men and women who risked life and limb at our government's request. H.R. 2297 does not fulfill the promises that our Nation made to provide for health care, education, housing and burial rights for the brave soldiers who fought our battles. This Republican Congress has paid lip-service to veterans' issues, but they follow up their patriotic rhetoric with legislation that can only be described as an insult. I am disappointed that the President and the Republican leadership of the House have on more than one occasion characterized funding for veterans benefits as a drain on our economy. The so-called Republican leadership refuses to live up to its obligations, including the elimination of the profoundly unfair disabled veterans' tax, also known as Concurrent Receipt.

The Disabled Veterans Tax is shorthand for a practice whereby the retirement pay earned by veterans with service connected disabilities is reduced dollar for dollar by the amount those veterans receive in disability payments. To put it more bluntly, our Nation's veterans—the men and women who fought to preserve the freedoms we all enjoy—are forced to pay their own disability compensation. Veterans with service-connected disabilities are the only Federal employees subject to this offset and are essentially given no additional pay for their sacrifice.